Import of Natural Rubber

5324. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to starred Question No. 309 given in Rajya Sbha on the 18th April, 1994 and state :

(a) the quantity of natural rubber that has been imported since 1990; year-wise figures;

(b) how much rubber has been produced in the country during this period, year-wise figures;

(c) what had been the shortfall of natural rubber between supply and demand within the country during this period, year-wise figures; and

(d) whether there has been any demand to increase the bench mark price of rubber and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) the details are as under :—

Year	Imported by STC.	Imported by the rubber goods manufacturers directly for export production under export incentive scheme (Quantity in tonnes)	Production	Shortfall between supply & demand
1990-91 . . .	31699	20243	329615	34,695
1991-92 . . .	Nil	14500	366745	13,495
1992-93 . . .	Nil	16498	393490	20,619
1993-94 . . .	—	15828 (April—Dec. 93)	435000	13,000
1994-95 . . .	—	—	*475000	*10,000

"Estimates.

Note : In order to meet the demand supply gap during lean production season of 1993-94, the rubber goods manufactu rers were allowed to import 10,000 MTs of Natural Rubber. However, a total quantity of 4131 MTs only was actually imported.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, the Bench Mark Price was announced as recently as February, 1994 @ Rs. 24,900/- MT for RMA-4 grade and Rs. 24,400/- MT for RMA-5 grade of natural rubber. This bench mark price was recommended taking into account the cost of cultivation and the cost of inputs used by the farmer, Therefore, it is too early to revised the Bench Mark Price of natural rubber now.

Custom Duty cuts on Industrial Imports under GATT Agreement

5325. SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per GATT bindings developed nations would cut custom duties on

industrial imports by an average 38 per cent and on agricultural products by 37 per cent;

(b) what is the custom duty reduction proposed on above items for imports in developing and undeveloped countries ;

(c) whether biggest import tariff cut woud be on wood, paper and furniture by 60 per cent, metal 59 per cent, non-electric machinery 47 per cent, mineral products, precious stones and metal 52 per cent, electric machinery 47 per cent and Chemicals 42 per cent;

(d) if so, the effect of this cost stipulated reduction on India ;

(e) whether India would be able to export more of the above items and if so, what is the proportion of each items in percentage and quantum :

(f) whether custom duties by importing developed countries would be reduced on textiles and clothing by 22 per cent, leather and shoes by 18 per cent and fish products by 26 per cent; and

(g) if so, how would this benefit India and what would be the increase in volume of exports and its ad valorem value and also increase in import and its ad valorem value ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (g). According to a study done by the GATT Secretariat, after implementation of Uruguay Round results the trade weighted average tariffs on industrial products in developed countries will come down from 6.4% to 4%. The resultant tariffs will be applicable on MFN basis to all members. The average reduction in respect of developing and least developed countries, weighted according to their existing trade will be from 6.8% to 4.6% and from 8.3% to 6.7% respectively. In the agricultural sector, tariffs would be reduced by 36% by those countries which have an obligation to do so under the Agreement on Agriculture.

The GATT Secretariat study estimates that in developed countries, the trade-weighted average tariffs on wood, pulp, paper and furniture would be reduced by 57%, metals by 62%, non-electric machinery by 52%, mineral products and precious stones by 58%, electric machinery by 45% and chemicals & photographic supplies by 43%. The study further states that developed country tariffs on textiles and clothing, leather, rubber and footwear would be reduced by 20%, and fish & fish products by 21 %.

Tariffs have not been a significant barrier to trade in the developed countries for sometime. The exact trade opportunities created by tariff reductions will depend upon a number of factors, primarily the competitiveness of the domestic industry.

Restrictions on immigration of labour and professionals

5326. SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is -a fact that India raised the issue of restrictions on immigration of labour and professionals to developed countries at Morocco ;

(b) if so, the response of the developed countries ;

(c) whether all the developing countries resisted the entry of extraneous issues like